**Dr. Phyllis Baudoin Griffard** is an award-winning biology educator who has incorporated diverse research experiences into her freshman lecture and lab classes and academic programs. Phyllis received her BS (honors) in Zoology from USL in 1983, MS in Biochemistry from Purdue in 1987 and PhD in Science Education from LSU in 1999. Her teaching experiences in public and private universities around the world have reinforced the importance of institutional culture and careful design with young adults in mind. Her research has documented how extracurricular activities and nonfiction book clubs contextualize the research experiences they have in course-based and mentored undergraduate research experiences.